The low level wastes are provided treatment by various methods such as chemical treatment, evaporation ion exchange, etc., to retain bulk of the radioactivity. The liquid that brings radioactivity to very low levels after treatment is monitored and discharged to the nearby water body after dilution. The concentrates are immobilised in cement matrix and treated as solid radioactive waste.

Private sector's participation in nuclear energy field

1013. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is intending to allow private sector participation in the area of utilization of nuclear energy;

(b) if so, the extent to which the participation would be allowed by Government and by when it would be allowed; and

(c) whether some private sector companies have shown interest in this field, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Atomic Energy Act permits nuclear power generation by a Government Company in which at least 51% ownership is by Central Government. Private Sector participation in nuclear power generation at a larger level requires amendment of the Atomic Energy Act. All aspects of private participation in nuclear power including the nuclear fuel cycle management, safety and security issues, need to be evaluated before crystallising the policy in this regard.

(c) Private companies like Reliance Power, Tata Power, GMR Energy etc. have shown interest in this field. In addition, public sector company NTPC have also expressed interest. These companies have been advised to be associated with the Government company Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) in the first instance, to get experience in this field.

Coal supply to power plants

†1014. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has adequate reserves to supply coal to power plants of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to acute shortage of coal in power generation stations in various States, power generation has gone down; and

(c) the quantity of coal imported by the Ministry from other countries during the year 2007-08?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.